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SOURCE Marches Coloniaux du Monde.MADAGASCAR'S 1951 FOREIGN TRADE

Madagascar's foreign trade in 1951 was characterized by increased imports, a lag in exports, and a larger deficit in the foreign trade balance. Comparative statistics for 1951 and 1950 are as follows:

	<u>1951</u>		<u>1950</u>	
	<u>Volume (tons)</u>	<u>Value (CFA francs)</u>	<u>Volume (tons)</u>	<u>Value (CFA francs)</u>
Imports	385,171	22,887,500,000	327,798	15,008,000,000
Exports	148,129	13,332,100,000	150,317	12,140,500,000

The foreign trade balance deficit increased from 2,867,500,000 CFA francs in 1950 to 9,555,400,000 CFA francs in 1951. Exports covered only 58.3 percent of imports in 1951 as compared with 81 percent in 1950. Imports increased 17.5 percent in tonnage and 52.5 percent in value over 1950; exports, on the other hand, decreased 1.6 percent in 1951 while their value increased by 9.8 percent. This was a reflection of the rise in prices following the outbreak of the war in Korea.

IMPORTS

The 12 categories listed below accounted for 80 percent of the value of imports in 1951.

Textiles

These imports had a total value of 6,084,000,000 CFA francs, of which 4,664,000,000 CFA francs were in cotton goods. Total tonnage in 1951 was 10,963, as compared with 7,688 in 1950 and 5,277 in 1949. Since 1951, textile imports have greatly exceeded requirements, and warehouses are bulging with stocks even though many merchants are selling at a loss.

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With a value of 1,758,000,000 CFA francs, these imports showed the following comparison with 1950:

<u>Type</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>Units</u> <u>1950</u>
Automobiles, passenger	1,454	864
Trucks	1,582	1,135
Tractors	195	294
Bicycles	11,896	5,042
Motorcycles	461	212

In addition, 800 tons of automotive maintenance material and special vehicles were imported in 1951.

Machines

These totaled 6,516 tons, as compared with 7,133 in 1950. In 1951, these imports were valued at 1,694,000,000 CFA francs, or 7.4 percent of total imports.

Metal Products

Metal products imported amounted to 1,569,000,000 CFA francs, or 6.85 percent of total imports. Their volume amounted to 17,421 tons, as compared with 10,920 in 1950. Included in the above figures is the following breakdown (in tons):

<u>Category</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1950</u>
Household goods	5,653	2,098
Construction materials	4,869	3,367
Tools and machinery	1,468	926
Screws and bolts	1,238	1,417

Petroleum products

These totaled 69,719 tons in 1951 and 53,939 tons in 1950. The principal items are given below in comparative form for the 2 years (in tons):

<u>Category</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1950</u>
Gasoline	35,714	31,862
Mineral oil	8,368	7,446
Diesel oil	14,135	7,764
Lubricating oils	3,723	3,463
Road oils	6,185	2,695

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The total value of the foregoing imports in 1951 was 1,330,000,000 CFA francs, or 5.81 percent of the total.

Chemical Products

These imports were valued at 1,218,000,000 CFA francs, or 5.32 percent of total imports. Of the total volume of 11,671 tons for 1951 and 6,300 for 1950, the following categories are compared (in tons):

<u>Category</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1950</u>
Pharmaceuticals	686	470
Fertilizers	2,562	1,962
Paints and varnishes	1,364	752
Laundry soaps	1,729	613
Toilet soaps	1,106	175
Insecticides	1,746	423

The sharp rise in soap imports caused a decline in local production.

Beverages

These totaled 23,307 tons in 1951 with a value of 995 million CFA francs, or 4.34 percent of total imports. Comparative figures for 1950 and 1951 are given below (in hectoliters unless otherwise indicated):

<u>Item</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1950</u>
Beer (tons)	4,147	2,167
Mineral water (ton.)	1,641	1,046
Soft drinks (tons)	604	168
Wine, table, in barrels	131,230	80,881
Champagne and sparkling wines	1,678	1,253
Aperitifs	3,532	2,244
Liqueurs	3,090	2,205

Metal Imports

These, consisting mainly of bar iron, sectional iron, rails, sheet metal, crossbars and pipes, amounted to 30,623 tons in 1951, as compared with 25,868 in 1950. Total value was 941 million CFA francs, or 4.11 percent of total imports. Electrical equipment imported in 1951, valued at 870 million CFA francs, amounted to 2,756 tons, as compared with 1,597 in 1950.

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Other imports were as follows:

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Value</u> (million CFA francs)
Ready-to-wear clothes	810
Cement	574
Footwear, hats, and umbrellas	565
Foodstuffs	430
Rubber articles	351
Navigation equipment	350
Corn meal	336
Stonework, ceramics, and glass	326
Furniture, bedding, and wood products	297
Dairy products	259
Paper products	254
Scientific and optical instruments, and watches	220
Railroad equipment	205
Rope, string, and thread	184
Fats and oils	180

Construction and equipment procurement are progressing favorably as indicated by the imports of cement, iron, machinery and electrical and transportation material. There is, however, a slackening in imports of agricultural and engineering equipment. Local factories are also supplying increased quantities of sugar, oil, chocolate, paste, soap, and bags which formerly were largely imported.

EXPORTS

Since World War II, exports have varied between 130,000 and 150,000 tons annually, as compared with 257,700 in 1938. The 1938 tonnage, however, included large quantities of raw materials which can no longer be profitably marketed, or which are processed locally and are thus shipped in a different form.

Comparative figures on the principal exports for 1951, 1950, and 1938 are shown below.

	<u>1951</u>		<u>1950</u>		<u>1938</u>
	<u>Volume</u> (tons)	<u>Value</u> (million CFA francs)	<u>Volume</u> (tons)		
Coffee*	30,521	5,273	44,951		41,193
Cloves	7,538	1,040	2,590		4,602

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	1951		1950.		1938	
	Volume (tons)	Value (million CFA francs)		Volume (tons)		
Hides, raw	--	815	--	--	--	--
Including:						
Cow Hides	4,243	649	4,352		5,597	
Crocodile hides	177	163	342		--	
Tobacco, leaf	4,353	787	2,950		1,397	
Meat, prepared and canned	5,258	773	3,673		4,533	
Vegetable fibers	--	719	--		--	
Including:						
Raffia	4,681	193	2,944		6,933	
Sisal	5,841	479	4,797		773	
Essential oils	594	546	--		--	
Including:						
Oil of cloves	564	396	793		304	
Oil of ilang-ilang	20	134	20		15	
Graphite	17,662	494	12,086		13,433	
Manioc and de- rivatives	21,590	415	--		--	
Including:						
Manioc, raw	6,537	79	5,737		29,623	
Manioc flour	6,080	120	4,324		4,900	
Tapioca	8,839	214	5,134		8,989	
Vanilla	447	391	589		320	
Vegetables, dried (in pods)	8,724	332	--		--	
Including:						
Peas	5,630	226	4,147		13,799	
Beans	2,877	96	2,142		4,300	
Pepper	366	285	279		182	

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	1951		Volume	
	Volume (tons)	Value (million CFA francs)	1950 (tons)	1938 (tons)
Oleaginous products	6,784	275	--	--
Including:				
Peanuts	3,478	159	2,274	307
Castor beans	1,945	83	2,868	2,525
Meats	2,075	199	844	6,733
Mica	688	166	835	626
Rum (hectoliters)	8,968	84	5,254	--
Corn	5,871	76	7,384	53,857
Beeswax	306	66	734	--
Rice	1,555	63	2,507	11,316
Vegetable oils	547	62	--	--
Including				
Aleurite	354	--	259	--
Palm sacks	626	49	127	--

* Coffee exports for 1950 included not only the current crop, but also stocks which had been held pending readjustment of prices.

Sugar exports in 1951 amounted only to 29 tons, as compared with 3,412 in 1950 and 11,911 in 1938.

The following table shows the distribution of Madagascar's foreign trade in 1951 and 1950 according to monetary zone (in million CFA francs):

	Franc Zone	Sterling Zone	Dollar Zone	Other Currency
Imports, 1951	18,822	1,471	793	1,801
Exports, 1951	10,860	1,353	714	405
Total	29,682	2,824	1,507	2,206
Trade balance deficit	7,962	118	79	1,396
Imports, 1950	12,221	945	1,079	163
Exports, 1950	10,417	464	702	557
Total	22,638	1,409	1,781	1,320
Trade balance deficit	1,804	481	377	206

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Trade in 1951 between Madagascar and France, the French Union, and foreign countries was distributed as follows:

<u>France</u>	<u>Volume</u> (tons)	<u>Value</u> (CFA francs)
Imports	228,700	17,536,000,000
Exports	91,929	9,320,600,000
Total	320,629	26,856,600,000
<u>Other Territories of the French Union</u>		
Imports	13,276	1,288,100,000
Exports	19,838	1,545,200,000
Total	33,116	2,833,300,000
<u>Foreign Countries</u>		
Imports	143,195	4,063,400,000
Exports	36,362	2,466,300,000
Total	179,555	6,529,700,000

The value of the foreign trade in 1951 amounted to 74.2 percent with France, 7.8 percent with other territories of the French Union, and 18 percent with foreign countries. A breakdown of the 1951 trade with France shows the following percentages with respect to total imports and total exports:

	<u>Volume</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Value</u>
Imports from France	59.4		76.6
Exports to France	62.1		69.9

Trade with other countries was as follows (in CFA francs):

US - imports, 747 million, including machinery and transportation equipment; exports, 683 million, including graphite, vanilla, mica, cloves, raffia, and sisal. The deficit balance was 64 million in 1951, as compared with 353 million in 1950.

Indochina - imports, 24 million; exports, 1,023,000,000, consisting mainly of coffee and preserved foods for the French armed forces.

Bahrein Islands - imports, 850 million, petroleum products; no exports.

Malaysia - exports, 825 million, cloves.

French West Indies - imports, 794 million, cotton textiles.

Great Britain - imports 230 million, including coal, textiles, machinery, metal products, and automobiles; exports, 436 million, including graphite, peas, tapioca, oil of cloves, and raffia.

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Belgo-Luxembourg Economic Union - imports, 385 million, consisting of cement, textiles, navigation equipment, sheet metal, and metal products; exports, 108 million, including cloves, sisal, and hides.

Reunion Island - imports, 20 million; exports, 417 million, including coffee, corn, peas, beans, and canned meat.

Netherlands - imports, 346 million, consisting of milk, beer, textiles, and navigation equipment; exports, 76 million, consisting of cloves, oil of cloves, and sisal.

West Germany - imports, 263 million, including cement, textiles, machinery, and metal products; exports, 111 million, including sisal and raffia.

Algeria - imports, 330 million, consisting of wines and tobaccos; exports, 17 million, including peanuts and coffee.

Switzerland - imports, 187 million, including machinery, iron products and textiles; exports, 5 million.

Italy - imports, 129 million, including textiles and machinery; exports, 52 million, including graphite and hides.

Iran - imports, 136 million, petroleum products; exports, one million.

Sveden - imports, 104 million, including cement, wood, machinery, and metal products; exports, 8 million.

Czechoslovakia - imports, 98 million, including textiles, household goods, and matches.

Denmark - imports, 90 million, including cement, beer, and dairy products; exports, 3 million.

Hungary - imports, 79 million, including textiles and machinery.

Union of South Africa - imports, 66 million, coal; exports, 7 million.

The increased imports in 1951 resulted partly from construction activity and partly from generally increased buying power. Exports showed an over-all decrease, with a deficit foreign trade balance amounting to 9,555,400,000 CFA francs. Four fifths of this total was with the franc zone.

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